

Report of the Common Council Sidewalk Committee

January 18, 2006

Committee Members and Staff

The members of the 2006 Committee were appointed by the President of the Council in 2005 and included:

- Tim Mayer, At-Large (Chair)
- David Rollo, District 4
- Chris Sturbaum, District 1
- Steve Volan, District 6

The committee members were assisted by the following persons:

Council Office

Dan Sherman, Council Administrator/Attorney

Stacy Jane Rhoads, Assistant Administrator

Public Works

Julio Alonso, Director

Justin Wykoff, Manager of Engineering Services

Planning

Scott Robinson, Long Range / Transportation Manager

Raymond Hess, Transportation Planner

Russell White, Zoning Compliance Planner

HAND

Bob Woolford, Housing Coordinator

Parks and Recreation

Steve Cotter, Natural Resources Manager

Schedule and Topics of Meetings

The Committee met five times in the fall of 2005 in the course of making its recommendations for funding allocations in 2006. Here is a brief overview of what occurred at those meetings (the memoranda of which are available in the Council Office):

October 5th and October 17th, 2005 at noon in the McCloskey Room

- Elected a Chairperson (Tim Mayer);
- Requested the Council Office to make a record of the meetings;
- Reviewed money available in the Alternative Transportation Fund for 2006 (this money derives from neighborhood parking revenues that

- are in excess of program expenses and was increased from \$185,000 to \$200,000 in 2006)
- Discussed sidewalk standards (in particular the INDOT ramp regulations);
 - Reviewed previous allocations and projects (see Chart);
 - Reviewed other recent, ongoing, or future sidewalk projects and heard presentations from:
 - Planning (e.g. revising the Greenways Plan)
 - Parks and Recreation (Southeast Park Trail, Lower Cascades Park, Renwick, CSX Corridor, Jackson Creek Trail, and Thomson Park)
 - HAND (various projects in targeted neighborhoods including Broadview and upper Westside areas)
 - Public Works (Hazard Elimination and Safety Fund projects at 17th and Fee Lane and Basswood and West Second Street)
 - Reviewed the Sidewalk Inventory;
 - Reviewed and affirmed a statement of criteria for selecting sidewalk proposals that include:
 - Safety considerations, Roadway classification, Pedestrian usage, Proximity to points of destination, and Costs/feasibility.
 - Discussed the role of City of Bloomington Utilities in funding some projects with Nathan Schulte.
 - Began receiving estimates and reviewing proposed projects in the following order:
 - Continuation of previously funded projects
 - Extension of previously funded projects
 - Other previously discussed projects
 - Reconsideration of previously denied projects
 - New projects

November 14th and December 5th, 2005 at noon in the McCloskey Room:

- Continued receiving estimates and reviewing proposed projects
- Heard from Todd Thompson, a property owner on North Kinser, advocating for the sidewalk project on North Kinser being reconsidered by the Committee after a denial last year.

December 12, 2005 at noon in the McCloskey Room to:

- Recommended allocation of \$153,239.47 to fund the construction of two projects (on Queensway and Roosevelt) and \$30,000 for the design of four projects (on Maxwell Lane, Arden, East Second, and East 11th) (See Recommendations and Chart for further details).

- Found that stormwater costs amount to about half of these sidewalk project costs and are the primary constraint on completion of many of them. Discussed sharing labor and material and perhaps dedicating a small portion of stormwater revenues as a means to move these projects along.
- Approved the minutes from the October 3rd and 17th, 2005 and delegated the approval of the minutes for the remaining meetings to the President after review and comment by members.
- Agreed to submit the Sidewalk Report to the Council by mid-January, 2006; and
- Agreed to meet by early February in order to explore:
 - 1) how the Committee might better partner with CBU to address the stormwater component of sidewalk projects; and
 - 2) how to make the Committee more efficient given the amount of money it allots and the time and resources it takes to make that decision.
- Agreed to meet in mid-September to begin the deliberations for 2007.

Highlights of Committee Deliberations

Alternative Transportation Fund – 2006 – Increased from \$185,000 to \$200,000

The Committee makes recommendations regarding the use of the Alternative Transportation Fund (ATF), which is funded primarily by surplus revenues from the Neighborhood Parking Program (BMC 15.37.160). This year those funds were increased from \$185,000 to \$200,000. Please see the recommendations below for information regarding the 2006 allocations and fund balances.

Review of Proposals

The Committee deliberations regarding sidewalk proposals are summarized in the attached chart of Recommendations for Use of Alternative Transportation Funds for 2006. After reviewing the status of previously funded projects, the committee considered proposals for funding in the following order: continuation of previously funded projects; Extension of previously funded projects; Previously discussed but unfunded projects; Reconsideration of previously denied projects; and New projects. At the end of the deliberations, the Committee was faced with requests of around \$2 million in sidewalks and about \$185,000 in funding. Given this gap between requests and funding, it recommending:

- funding the construction of two projects on Queens Way and Roosevelt,
- funding design for four projects on Maxwell Lane, Arden Drive, East 2nd and East 11th Street;
- awaiting design work for Marilyn Drive and the availability of other funding for Jefferson Street; and
- not funding the remaining ones.

Issues for Attention Early in 2006

The Committee decided to meet early in 2006 to find ways to move projects with a large stormwater component forward and to streamline the decision-making process.

Committee Recommendations:

After five meetings the Committee made the following Recommendations:

1. Allocate the \$200,000 of Alternative Transportation Funds appropriated in 2006 in the following manner:

| | |
|-------------------|-------------------------------|
| \$200,000 | Annual Appropriation |
| - \$15,000 | <u>Traffic Calming</u> |
| \$185,000 | Sidewalk Projects |

2. Fund the following projects:

Construction – Queens Way and Roosevelt - 53,239.47

- **Queens Way - Sussex to High (south side) -- \$25,969.68**
- It is the missing link connecting High to Renwick and does not have a large storm water component.
- **Roosevelt Street - Fourth to Fifth (east side) -- \$127, 269.79 (with curbs on the opposite of the street)**
- This project ties in with the recent improvements made by the private sector (Doug McCoy), which make this a through-street.

Design Only – Maxwell Lane, Arden, East Second & East Eleventh - \$30,000 The Committee agreed to initiate design of the following projects in the interest of furthering them along. The total project costs noted below include design and construction of the sidewalk.

- **East Maxwell Lane – Highland to Sheridan (north side) - \$10,000**
Total Project Cost: Two blocks - \$138,138.86
- This project would complete missing links on Maxwell Lane between Henderson and High Street.
- **Arden – From High to Windsor (south side) -- \$5,000;**
Total Project Cost: Two blocks - \$59,486.72
- This project provides a safe walk way for the neighborhood's many children.
- **East Second Street - Woodcrest to 300' east (north side) - \$5,000;**
Total Project Costs: Half a block - \$31,574.66
- This project is the missing link on the north side of the street from College Mall to the west.
- **East Eleventh Street – Washington to Lincoln (north side) - \$10,000**
Total Project Cost: One block - \$60,151.41
- This project would install a missing sidewalk in the urban core area.

Note: At the end-of-the-year, Justin indicated to the Council Office that there was a shortfall in funding for projects bid-out or constructed in 2005, but that the Greenways fund will be able to cover the shortfall by applying funds to the Nancy Street project because it is on the Greenways Plan.